

III. REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the application but believes that all the claims should be allowable in their present state for the reasons stated below.

Claims 1, 13, 16 and 19 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Blanc et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,661,777 ("Blanc") in view of Lodenius, U.S. Patent No. 5,799,091. Neither Blanc nor Lodenius, or the combination thereof discloses or suggests a non-dedicated fast signaling channel as claimed by Applicant. The idea of Applicant's invention as presently claimed is to define a **non-dedicated** fast signaling channel in the frame structure of a cellular radio system and to use the capability allocated thereto to convey fast signaling between the base stations and mobile stations. In cellular networks, a channel is "non-dedicated" if it is not reserved for the sole use of a particular connection. An exclusively reserved channel is "dedicated".

Claim 1 recites in part, allocating a piece of radio communication capacity from the arrangement of repeatedly occurring frames to a non-dedicated fast signalling channel. Claim 1 also recites using said piece of radio communication capacity allocated to a non-dedicated fast signalling channel for conveying fast signalling messages between at least one mobile station and the base station. Neither Blanc nor Lodenius suggest or disclose a non-dedicated fast signalling channel in the frame structure of a cellular radio system and to use the capacity allocated thereto to convey fast signalling between the base stations and the mobile stations as called for in Applicant's claim 1.

The Examiner notes that Blanc fails to disclose allocating a piece of radio communication capacity from the arrangement of repeatedly occurring frames to a non-dedicated communication channel and utilising the piece of radio communication capacity allocated to a non-dedicated fast signalling channel for conveying fast signalling messages between at least one mobile station and the base station.

Lodenius discloses a single chip semiconductor device (100) for use in a GSM mobile station system. The system includes an external RF module (108) for transmitting and receiving radio signals. The semiconductor device (100) has a control-radio interface ("CRI") subsystem (104) (col. 4, lines 14-17). The CRI has a bus that allows communication with a radio transceiver ("RTX") subsystem (106) (col. 5, lines 29-35). The RTX provides for the use of various traffic control channels including a fast associated control channel ("FACCH") (col. 6, lines 29-48).

The Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Blanc to use the concept of FACCH of Lodenius in allocating a non-dedicated fast signalling channel for conveying fast signalling messages. However, the FAACH is not a non-dedicated channel but rather a very dedicated signalling channel that steals its capacity from another very dedicated traffic channel. The FACCH appears in place of the traffic channel when lengthy signalling is required between a GSM mobile station and the network while the mobile station is in call. A channel like the well known FACCH of Lodenius does not become non-dedicated only because it does not have a fixed capacity allocation. Thus, Lodenius does not suggest or disclose a non-dedicated channel as called for in claim 1 of the present application. Applicant

requests that the Examiner show at least one prior art reference to non-dedicated channels as claimed by Applicant if further rejections are going to be made on this basis.

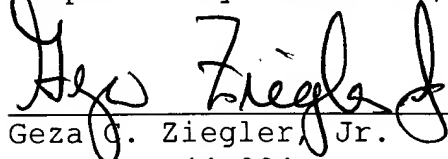
Because neither Blanc nor Lodenius suggest or disclose a non-dedicated channel, as called for in Applicant's claim 1, their combination cannot do as well. Therefore, it would not have been obvious nor is there any motivation for a person skilled in the art to combine Blanc's teaching of dedicated communication channels with Lodenius' teaching of dedicated communication channels to obtain what is claimed in Applicant's claim 1 (i.e. non-dedicated channels). Thus claim 1 is patentable over Blanc and/or Lodenius, individually or in combination.

Independent claims 16 and 19 contain limitations similar to the limitations in claim 1 and are patentable for similar reasons. Dependent claims 2-15, 17 and 18 are patentable at least because of their respective dependencies.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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